

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Applicant: Salvatore Albani **Group Art Unit:** Not yet assigned
Serial No.: Not yet assigned **Examiner:** Not yet assigned
Filed: Not yet assigned

For: Methods for Isolation, Quantification, Characterization and Modulation of Antigen-Specific T Cells

Petition to "Make Special"

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to MPEP 708.02, Section XII, Applicant hereby petitions to have the application filed herewith accorded "special" status for the purpose of expediting examination. The requisite fee (as provided by 37 CFR 1.17(h)) accompanies this paper.

A statement establishing small entity status accompanies this submission (as part of the new application transmittal).

The invention that is the subject of this application is a major asset of the assignee, Androclus Therapeutics, SpA ("Androclus"). The invention concerns devices that contain T artificial antigen-presenting cells ("aAPCs") invented by Applicant. Such devices can be used, for example, to isolate antigen-specific T cells and to modulate T cell activity, which will be useful for treating T cell-mediated diseases, for example, graft versus host disease, autoimmune diseases (e.g., rheumatoid arthritis), and viral infections.

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING
(37 C.F.R. §1.10)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being mailed to: Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450, via the United States Postal Service's "Express Mail - Post Office to Addressee" service on the date shown below in an envelope having Express Label No. ER 212 992 184 W and to which is affixed sufficient postage, as determined by the USPS.

Daniel M. Chambers
7 July 2003
Date of Deposit

Name of Person Mailing Paper
Daniel M. Chambers
Signature of Person Mailing Paper

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Development of these important tools will be significantly impaired if examination of the patent application is delayed. Impairment will occur because additional financial resources will be required to bring the subject invention to the stage of development required for commercialization. Androclus is an early stage biotechnology company that relies entirely on third party investor financing to provide the capital necessary for development of its technology, including the subject invention. Receiving expedited examination of this patent application will serve to reduce uncertainty as to the patentability of the invention. Reduced uncertainty will allow Androclus and prospective investors to more accurately assess the value of the invention, and hence facilitate obtaining the capital necessary to advance the technology to a commercial stage. If, on the other hand, examination is delayed, uncertainty as to the patentability of the invention will continue, thereby making valuation of the technology, and hence efforts to raise sufficient capital for development the instant medically important methods, more difficult, if not impossible.

Applicant respectfully requests prompt consideration of this petition, and an early notice of decision hereon. If additional information would be helpful in reaching a decision, Applicant encourages the reviewing officer to telephone the undersigned at his/her earliest convenience so that such information can be provided expeditiously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 7 July 2003

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